
THE POSITION PAPER

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In preparation for the conference, to best prepare delegates are responsible for doing extensive research on their country's position in the topic of their respective committee. Prior to the start of the first committee session, each delegate is highly encouraged to submit a position paper, which is a short write up of the research that has been made. By submitting a position paper, delegates give a good first impression to the committee director and also have an additional opportunity to win an award.

KnightMUN XIX will have position paper awards, but position papers will not be mandatory.

Keep in mind, submitting a position paper means you have gone above and beyond in preparation, and is a great way to focus your research for committee.

What is in a position paper?

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What makes it important

The most important element of a good position paper is the content. Content presents the country or person's position on a particular subject and not a background piece of the topic. This means that a position paper should have ideas on how to solve the topic at hand, such as child malnutrition for example, and not just what the country has done in the past regarding such topic. In addition, the position paper should be compatible with your country's interests and foreign policy. Keep in mind if your country or person would support a particular policy in the real world, and how it would actually react, and apply that to your position paper (also great points to bring into committee).

Furthermore, this is the position paper from your assigned country or person, not yourself. Your own personal viewpoints may be different from the foreign policy of your assigned country. It is important to act as a representative. Remember that part of the learning experience of Model UN is learning and presenting a different perspective. The position paper is your opportunity to demonstrate to the committee staff and to your fellow delegates the depth of your knowledge on the issue. Stating that Belgium wishes to see a strengthening of the verification protocols of the CFE Treaty by allowing more overflights of territory shows a greater depth of knowledge and nuance than merely saying that Belgium supports a strengthening of the CFE Treaty. It is highly encouraged to be specific when presenting an idea.

Remember, the more research you do, the better off you are for committee.

Crisis Position Papers

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While not as common as General Assembly position papers, Crisis position papers are a great opportunity to familiarize the crisis delegate with how their character will approach the issues presented in committee. Similarly to General Assembly delegates, a tone of professionalism is necessary, and stances should reflect that of the character and not the delegate. As with most crisis aspects, crisis delegates are encouraged to present ideas in a creative way.

quality of Writing

The second most important element of a good position paper is the quality of writing. The quality of ideas is the most important factor, but how well they are presented also matters. Quality of writing includes how well organized the position paper is and how clearly the ideas are presented. Appropriate syntax and vocabulary are key principles. Remember to use diplomatic and academic language. It is also important to avoid colloquialisms and informalities.

Formatting

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A position paper that is poorly formatted or has spelling and grammatical errors can distract the reader from the quality of the content. When writing a position paper, keep in mind the flow of the words. The goal is to make the reader have an easy time perusing the content.

- Position papers must NOT exceed 2 pages in length, but should be longer than one. Any position paper that is longer than 2 pages will not be read. Prospects for winning an award will be lowered if a position paper is too long.
 - Font size: main body text 12pt, footnote text 10pt
 - Times New Roman or Helvetica
 - Footnotes cited Chicago style.
 - The content must be single-spaced, and the text alignment should be “justified.”
 - Top left-hand corner of the paper should read: *Delegation from* (italized),
Member State
 - **Top right-hand corner of the paper should read: *Represented by* (italized),
Name of School (bolded)**
 - Please follow the Sample Position Paper below as a reference when writing your paper.
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*Delegation from **The Kingdom of the Netherlands***

*Represented by **The University of Central Florida***

Position Paper for General Assembly Fourth Committee

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is committed to addressing the topic before this session of the General Assembly 4th committee, that of combating organ trafficking. Our government wants what is best for our people and for the international community and through dialogue and diplomacy, we believe our goals can be achieved.

I. Combating Organ Trafficking

With the world becoming an ever smaller and interconnected place, local events in one country can transcend borders and affect the international community. Regarding the continuous problem of organ trafficking, the Kingdom of the Netherlands stands against it. As organ trafficking having links with human trafficking in part to the extraction of the victim's organs, and their abuse of human rights, foreign affairs minister Uri Rosenthal wishes to “pursue a coherent and compact human rights policy with which the Netherlands can achieve concrete results”.¹ Furthermore, “the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide are an integral part of our foreign policy”.² Though the Netherlands is an industrial, wealthy country, we are seen with the increasing problem of transplant tourism.³

Through former efforts and commitments to reduce transplant tourism, the Netherlands in 1998 ratified the UN Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons,⁴ and just recently a Dutch delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) backed Serbia's resolution on human organ trafficking in which it recommended closer cooperation in the exchange of information and more efficient operations of institutions.⁵ Such initiative was not the only one taken, as years before the Netherlands enacted the Dutch Organ Donation Act in 1998.⁶ This act regulates the donation of organs and tissues for the medical treatment of other individuals and highlighted that there was and still is a lack of knowledge about

¹ “Human Rights”. *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. http://www.minbuza.nl/en/Key_Topics/Human_Rights ² *Ibid* ³ Ambagtsheer, Frederike. The battle for human organs. Kidney markets and transplant tourism from the Netherlands in the global economy. http://www.esot.org/Files/Elpat/Content_Files/fo2pMorgantrade.Frederike%20ambagtsheer.pdf ⁴ “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish trafficking in Persons”. *UNODC*. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/countrylist-traffickingprotocol.html> ⁵ Netherlands to back Serbia's organ trafficking resolution. *B92*. http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics-article.php?yyyy=2011&mm=07&dd=07&nav_id=75319 ⁶ Ambagtsheer, Frederike. The battle for human organs. Kidney markets and transplant tourism from the Netherlands in the global economy. http://www.esot.org/Files/Elpat/Content_Files/fo2pMorgantrade.Frederike%20ambagtsheer.pdf

the opportunity to donate, where steps needed to be taken are have been.⁷ Also, it imposed automatic consent, where all citizens not getting registered in the national registry for organ donation, would receive a letter to inform them that if they do not explicitly refuse to be a donor they will automatically.⁸

As such, the Kingdom of the Netherlands encourages member states to consider the Dutch Organ Donation Act and implement what constitutes their interests to their home governments. Recommending to member states that the act of donation should be regarded as heroic and honored as such by respective governments and civil society organizations, as stated by the Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism, the Netherlands sees this as an opportunity to bring the issue of organ transplantation into the civil spotlight and thus given more consideration by state governments.⁹ The Netherlands would also like to point out that out of the many aims towards solving organ trafficking, one of them should not be to prevent transplant tourism, as transplant tourism does not always involve the purchase, but commercial transplant tourism does, in which the trade actually takes place. Through better clarification of our objectives, as the UN Trafficking Protocol does not cover different types of organ trafficking that occur in practice, and the global comparison of trafficking in human organs is constrained by the lack of a uniform definition and the absence of consistent statistics and criminal reports, the international community will be able to find a common solution to a complex, growing problem.¹⁰ Finally, the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers and restates the invitation from the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, Doc. 9822, regarding trafficking of organs in Europe, not only to the European continent, but to all members of the General Assembly in the United Nations, to adopt and adhere to the recommendations in the World Medical Association's (WMA) statement on Human Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation, adopted by the 52nd WMA General Assembly in Edinburgh, Scotland, in Oct. 2000, and now the revised version in the 57th WMA General Assembly, in Pilanesberg, South Africa, in Oct. 2006.¹¹

⁷ Ibid. ⁸ Ibid. ⁹ "The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism". http://www.isodp2011.org.ar/downloads/Declaration_of_Istanbul.pdf ¹⁰ Ambagtsheer, Frederike. The battle for human organs. Kidney markets and transplant tourism from the Netherlands in the global economy. [http://www.esot.org/Files/Elpat/Content_Files/fo2pMorgantrade.Frederike %20ambagtsheer.pdf](http://www.esot.org/Files/Elpat/Content_Files/fo2pMorgantrade.Frederike%20ambagtsheer.pdf) ¹¹

Parliamentary Assembly. Council of Europe. <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc03/EDOC9822.htm>

